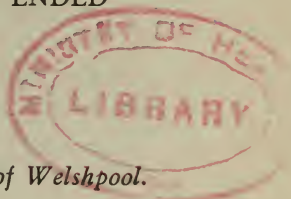


ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31ST DECEMBER, 1942.



To the Sanitary Authority of the Borough of Welshpool.

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors.

This report is drawn up on the lines indicated in Circ. 2604 (Wales) dated March 24th, 1942.

VITAL STATISTICS.

On grounds of national security no figures of population are given in this year's report. However, I may say that there is a slight increase in the population.

BIRTHS.—Live births: Male, 39; Female, 52; total, 91.
Six of these births were illegitimate.

BIRTH RATE.—15.8 per 1000, being the average for England and Wales. 7 Still births.

DEATHS.—All causes, 47 Male, 29 Female; total, 76.

DEATH RATE.—11.1 per 1000, being slightly below the average death rate for England and Wales.

No deaths from puerperal and post-abort. sepsis.
One death from eclampsia.

No deaths of infants from diarrhoea under 2 years of age.

2 deaths from Tuberculosis of the respiratory system.

18 deaths from Cancer.

8 deaths from Heart Disease.

Of the 7 deaths of infants under 2 years, four were of premature birth or congenitally malformed.

There was only one death from road traffic accident.

I am unable to explain the high incidence—18—of deaths from cancer.

WATER.

Rainfall figures for the year were as follows: —

January	2.75in.	July	2.90in.
February	1.29in.	August	2.30in.
March	1.14in.	September	1.64in.
April	2.39in.	October	1.75in.
May	4.27in.	November	.73in.
June	.41in.	December	3.63in.
Total			<hr/> 25.10in. <hr/>

This total is the lowest recorded since the rain gauge was installed five years ago, and one of the results is that the quantity of water entering the reservoirs as late in the year as the month of December was less than the town's consumption.

The quantity of water in the reservoirs at the end of the drought was approximately three million gallons.

The minimum gaugings of the St. Garmons Spring towards the end of the drought period were as follows: —

Sept., 37,756 galls.; Oct., 37,756 galls.; Nov. 19, 19,265 galls.;

Dec., 19,265 galls.

Six analyses were taken of the water from St. Garmons Spring, and these showed that the standard had improved materially in 1942, and the Council wisely decided to continue the restrictions as to the application of farmyard manure on the fields immediately adjoining the springs, for a further period of two years. In the meantime fortnightly samplings of the spring water are being sent to the Emergency Laboratories at Aberystwyth.

Thirty-eight gaugings and eight analyses have also been taken at Trinity Well and the results show that this would make an excellent supplementary supply for the town.

During the year twenty-three samples of water were submitted to the Emergency Laboratories for analyses.

Three samples of the town supply were taken and all were highly satisfactory.

The average consumption is 105 thousand gallons per day, which is equivalent to approx. 26 gallons per head.

The minimum waste line registered on night inspection was 1,300 gallons per hour.

The only extension of the town main during the year was to Severn Villa.

GROES AND GUILDSFIELD SUPPLY.

The four analyses of this water have been satisfactory. Visits are made twice per week to inspect the drip chlorinator.

At the end of the dry period the quantity of water in the tank was 80,000 gallons, the capacity of the tank being 150,000 gallons. The lowest supply to the tank was 1,234 gallons per day, and this was recorded on the 15th September. On December 9th the consumption of the villages (excluding Garth Hall) was 1,258 gallons per day, on the same date the consumption at Garth Hall was 1,387 gallons per day.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

There were no extensions, the usual cleaning and flushing of sections of the sewer was carried out and there was no flooding of the system in the built up area.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

No action was found necessary.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

No change.

SHOPS AND OFFICES.

The provisions of the Shops Acts have been complied with.

No court proceedings took place.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No action.

SWIMMING BATHS.

No action.

SCHOOLS.

The schools in the Borough have been inspected periodically.
MILK.

At the end of the year there were 20 retail producers and 66 wholesale producers on the registers kept under the Milk and Dairies Order 1926.

Fifteen applications were received for registration under this Order and seven producers were registered. At the end of the year 23 producers in the Borough held accredited licences as compared with 23 the year before, and there were 8 producers holding T.T. licences.

In August, fortnightly sampling of milk was started, covering the supplies from seven producer-retailers in the town.

In all 44 samples were taken, and the results were 21 A's, 7 B's, and 16 C's. There has been a distinct improvement in the quality of the milk supply since the sampling was started, but the importance of the personal factor and of efficient cooling cannot be too greatly stressed. If more care were taken along these lines a better standard would be achieved.

TINNED FOODSTUFF.

There has been a large increase in the consumption of tinned food.

One hundred and forty-nine small tins of food have been condemned as unfit for human consumption.

MEAT.

The arrangements for the meat supply are working satisfactorily. There are occasional causes for complaint, which has led to the condemnation of 60 lbs. of meat as unfit for human consumption, but considering all the difficulties the supply is good and the method of conveyance and handling satisfactory.

HOUSING.

The Council have decided to complete the Bronybuckley Scheme as their First Year Housing Programme. The undeveloped portion of the site will accommodate thirty-eight houses.&

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The undermentioned cases of Infectious Disease were notified in 1942:—

Scarlet Fever.—3.

Diphtheria.—3.

Puerperal Pyrexia.—2.

Whooping Cough.—5.

Erysipelas.—4.

There was no epidemic of Infectious Disease during 1942 and all the above cases recovered.

There were 2 deaths from Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System, eight cases of this disease being notified as follows:—

Pulmonary.—3.

Cervical glands.—2.

Knee joint.—1.

Kidney.—1.

Lupus.—1. Total, 8.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

J. A. CRUMP.

June, 1943.

